



JRTC & FORT POLK



BASE OPS SAFETY BULLETIN COMMAND SAFETY OFFICE

Jul-Aug 07

Special Points of Interest

- Job Site Orientation
- Employee's Right to Know
- Driving While Dialing

Safety problem?
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2536/1981

Job Site Orientation

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) standards mandate that employers provide training to their employees whenever they are exposed to occupational hazards. For instance: if you require employees to work from scaffolding, then you must provide them with training on scaffolds. This training is to familiarize employees with the dangers with working from scaffolds in order to help prevent accidents and injuries. The best way to accomplish this is to mandate job site orientations. Job site orientations can provide valuable information that will help reduce injuries and accidents that occur on the job site. The orientation should last long enough so that each employee has a good understanding of what the site expectances are. The orientation should contain at a minimum the following:

1. *Site Specific Emergency Action Procedures* – Informing all employees of the emergency action plan for the job site is necessary in order to prevent confusion in the event of an emergency. You should inform employees of where to go in case of severe weather, or in the event the evacuation is needed due to fire or other emergency.
2. *Site Specific Rules and Regulations* – You should inform employees during the orientation of any site specific rules and regulations that may be different from other job sites. For example: OSHA requires that employees wear safety glasses when there is an exposure to flying particles. However, you may want to mandate the use of safety glasses 100% of the time while on the project. This is the best time to inform employees of these site rules.
3. *Expectations* – You should also use this time to explain any type of job site safety expectations that you may have. The expectations are good to share with everyone who works on the job site. By taking the time to conduct a job site safety orientation, you will help to reduce accidents, injuries, and you will also help to reduce confusion in emergency situations.

Employee's Right to Know

The most common OSHA violation for employers is the failure to follow the rules set by the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). Also referred to as "Right to Know," this program is intended to inform employers and employees of the dangers associated with the different chemical products used or stored on site. The Hazard Communication Standard specifies that employers are required to provide training to their employees on these dangers, and make available the appropriate reference they would like to use at their facility. For most employers this is no easy task. Depending on the number of chemical products, work areas, and employees, meeting the requirements of the HCS could prove to be extremely complex and time consuming.



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This article is intended to provide a brief explanation of the Hazard Communication Standard and what it takes to stay in compliance. To better understand the Hazard Communication Standard it is easiest to

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personal protection equipment and environmental controls used to limit exposure, and an explanation and proper use of hazard labels. An effective and comprehensive training program will meet the requirements of the HCS and provide valuable information to your employees that may prevent a disaster or save lives. The Hazard Communication Standard is intended to inform all employers and employees of the hazards associated with the chemical products that may affect them. Uninformed businesses and employees are more likely to be the cause and victim of accidents. They will also be unprepared to respond to such an incident. Failure to meet any or all of the Hazard Communication requirements is OSHA's number one violation, and it will continue to be the primary topic of enforcement because of the millions of workers affected and the numerous associated injuries and fatalities.

Driving While Dialing

Cell phones can not only be a necessity for this day and age, but can also be a lifesaver to a stranded motorist. Cell phones can be especially useful if you find yourself stranded in severe weather or in secluded or remote areas where walking is out of the question. Unfortunately we can't always trust a person who stops to help; therefore being able to call someone is a great comfort to many. But cell phones and cars don't always mix. Cell phones can be a distraction when the driver should be more concerned on operating his or her vehicle in a safe manner. This topic is part of an intense debate that has already caused some areas to ban hand held cell phone usage in cars if you are the driver and it will continue for some time.

